

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**"Anting" by Magpie-lark.**—On July 31, 1948 I saw a Mud-lark<sup>128</sup> disturbing a nest of ants—the common red ants. It then began picking the ants up and squeezing them. The bird's mate was looking on but did not seem interested in what the other bird was doing. The bird appeared quite healthy and did not mind the ants crawling about its feathers.  
—JOHN GALLOWAY, Borden

[This letter was sent to Miss Olive Seymour, of the Correspondence Classes of the Education Department and specimens of the ants were enclosed. They were identified by Mr. C. F. H. Jenkins (Government Entomologist) as the common meat ant (*Iridomyrmex detectus*). The case reported is another interesting example of the phenomenon of "anting" which has been referred to earlier in this journal (vol. 1, no. 1, June 18, 1947, p. 21). The Magpie-lark or Mud-lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) has previously been recorded as "anting."  
—EDITOR.]

**Birds Mobbing Fox at Caron.**—While walking through some light York gum forest, I had pointed out to me some very excited birds in a distant tree. On investigation I found a mixed flock of birds mobbing a fox. The group consisted of nine Port Lincoln Parrots, four Red Wattle-birds and about fifteen Dusky Miners. The parrots were in the top of the tree, keeping quiet and still, but were very interested. The miners were flying to and fro but were not calling very much. Low in the tree, with their feathers fluffed out, the wattle-birds perched, making hissing noises. The fox was under an *Acacia*, looking up at the birds. As I approached, I frightened it. It withdrew to a thicket a few yards off, turned and glanced at the birds for a moment, and then loped into the thicket and out of sight. The fox had no bird in its mouth, nor was there any sign of blood or feathers on the ground. The birds did not disperse until some time after the fox had gone, but remained perched quietly in the tree.  
—L. E. SEDGWICK, Caron

**A Rare Jewel Beetle.**—The announcement that a marine biological laboratory will be erected at the Mudurup Rocks reserve, on the limestone headland just south of the Cottesloe jetty, recalls



*Stigmodera magnetica*—Olive Seymour, del.